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KHPA Receives \$2.6 Million CHIPRA Bonus *Federal Payment Recognizes Efforts to Boost Children's Enrollment*

(TOPEKA) – The Kansas Health Policy Authority has been awarded a \$2.6 million bonus from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The bonus payment is a reward for the state's efforts to increase enrollment of children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

This is the second bonus payment awarded to KHPA in 2010. In August, the agency was awarded \$1.2 million under the same program. The bonus payments are funded under a provision of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), the 2009 legislation that reauthorized and expanded the Children's Health Insurance Program.

"Making sure that eligible children get enrolled and stay enrolled is one of our top priorities," said KHPA Executive Director Dr. Andrew Allison. "We know that getting kids covered makes a difference in their health. Coverage is important to families, and it is important to the medical providers who take care of our children."

To qualify for the bonus payments states are required to implement at least five program features that are known to promote enrollment and retention in health coverage for children. They are also required to demonstrate significant increase in Medicaid enrollment among children during the course of the fiscal year.

CMS noted that during Federal Fiscal Year 2010, Kansas achieved a 9 percent increase in Medicaid enrollment of children, compared to the state's baseline enrollment.

(more)

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The program features implemented in Kansas include:

- 12-month continuous eligibility
- Liberalization of the state's asset test
- Elimination of in-person interview requirements
- Use of the same form for applications and renewals
- Presumptive eligibility

In addition to those efforts, Allison noted that KHPA has launched a long-term initiative to streamline the enrollment process for children and families and to increase participation among hard-to-reach populations.

KATCH – the [Kansas Access to Comprehensive Healthcare initiative](#) – is funding the purchase of a new, modern eligibility and enrollment system for the Kansas Medicaid and CHIP programs. The new system will allow for electronic online applications, replacing the paper application process that is used now. The KATCH initiative is also funding 12 outstationed eligibility workers located in safety net clinics throughout the state. Kansas is a year into the five-year KATCH initiative.